

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 141230Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1178

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MILI EC

SUBJ: US CITIZEN POSING AS FRIEND OF CONGRESSMAN MILLS

REF: STATE 194111

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT WARNING ABOUT MR. WARREN BASS. UNFORTUNATELY, DAMAGE WAS DONE BY TIME GOE QUERIED US ABOUT HIS BONA FIDES. BASS CALLED ON CONSUL ON AUGUST 2 (PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL), REPRESENTING HIMSELF AS MANAGING AND LAND CLEARANCE PROJECT IN BELIZE. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS IN ECUADOR RECRUITING TECHNICIANS FOR THE PROJECT AND THAT HE EXPECTED REPRESENTATIVES MILLS TO VISIT IT LATER THIS YEAR. BASS INFORMED CONSUL HE PLANNED TO LEAVE QUITO AUGUST 3.

2. ON AUGUST 13, MIL REP WAS CALLED IN BY ECUADOREAN NAVY OFFICIALS AND INFORMED THAT BASS HAD CALLED ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARRATA AND ECUADOREAN MILITARY LOGISTICS OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 7 AND HAD INDICATED HIS ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO ARRANGE TRANSFER OF A WIDE VARIETY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING DESTROYERS, TO THE GOE. WHEN GOE OFFICIALS TOLD BASS OF THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS IN GETTING SUCH EQUIPMENT THROUGH USG CHANNELS HE INDICATED THAT HE "HAD FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES" AND THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING DESIRED EQUIPMENT. US MILREP EXPLAINED THAT BASS WAS GUILTY OF MISREPRESENTING BOTH HIMSELF AND HIS

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ABILITY TO PRODUCE THE ITEMS IN QUESTION, AND THAT, AT

ANY RATE, TRANSFERS OF EQUIPMENT COULD NOT BE EXPEDITED
BY FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.

3. MIL REP EXPLANATION APPEARED TO SATISFY NAVY OFFICIALS,
BUT EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND
ARMY AND AIR FORCE OFFICIALS MIGHT STILL PLACE CREDENCE
IN BASS' PRESENTATION. MILREP WILL CALL ON SUBSECRETARY
OF DEFENSE ENDERICA AND AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ON
AUGUST 16 TO REITERATE USG POSITION ON
EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS AND ON MR. BASS.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, THE SUBJECT OF
SHIP TRANSFERS IS A PARTICULARLY TOUCHY ONE HERE. IT IS
INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT BASS WAS ABLE TO GET ACCESS TO HIGH
LEVEL DEFENSE OFFICIALS.
BLOOMFIELD

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